Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) A surgical instrument for tissue fixation comprising:

a handpiece constructed to be held by a surgeon during a fixation procedure;

a cannulated tube defining a lumen, mounted on the handpiece, the cannulated tube including a tip portion configured to releasably receive and carry a rigid suture carrying device within the lumen at the tip portion and position the suture carrying device in a tissue opening, the tip portion including flat areas on a lip of the tip portion, the suture carrying device including an eyelet configured to receive a portion of the suture and a pair of channels extending from the eyelet, wherein a region of each channel includes a keying feature in engagement with the flat areas of the tip portion to restrict rotation of the suture carrying device within the tip portion; and

a heating device, disposed within the cannulated tube.

30-49. (Cancelled)

50. (Previously Presented) A method of securing soft tissue to bone via use of the surgical instrument of claim 29 comprising:

coupling a suture to the soft tissue so that a portion of the suture extends from the soft tissue;

forming an opening in the bone;

providing the surgical instrument;

mounting the extending portion of the suture on the suture carrying device;

inserting the suture carrying device into the opening via use of the surgical instrument;

delivering a flowable material, in a liquid state, to the opening; and

allowing the flowable material to at least partially solidify to secure the suture and suture carrying device in the opening.

51-61. (Cancelled)

62. (Canceled)

63. (Canceled)

64. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument of claim 29 wherein the heating device comprises a flexible circuit.

65. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument of claim 29 wherein the heating device comprises a thermistor disposed on an outer surface of the heating device.

66. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument of claim 64 wherein the heating device comprises a thermally conductive tube along which the flexible circuit is positioned.

67. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument of claim 29 wherein the cannulated tube comprises an insulating tube surrounding said heating device.

68. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument of claim 29 wherein the heating device comprises a pair of thermistors disposed in series, the thermistors disposed on an outer surface of the heating device.

69. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument of claim 68 further comprising electronics configured to compare signals received from the thermistors and to shut off power to the heating device if a predetermined difference between the signals is exceeded.

70. (Canceled)

71. (Canceled)

72. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument of claim 29 wherein the suture carrying device is generally cylindrical and comprises one or more circumferential ridges.

73. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument of claim 29 wherein the suture carrying device includes a pair of wings extending radially from a distal end of the suture carrying device.

74. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument of claim 29 wherein the suture carrying device is formed of a non-metallic material.

75. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument of claim 74 wherein the suture carrying device comprises a resorbable polymer.

76. (Canceled)

77. (Canceled)

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 further comprising seating the suture carrying device in the opening.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 further comprising, between the inserting and delivering steps, tensioning the suture.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79 wherein the tensioning step comprises manually tensioning the suture.

81. (Canceled)

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 further comprising providing the flowable material in a non-liquid state and heating the material to cause it to flow.